

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF WEST VIRGINIA CELLULAR TELEPHONE	)	
CORP. FOR ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC	)	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT AN	)	CASE NO.
ADDITIONAL CELL FACILITY IN THE KENTUCKY PORTION	)	97-270
OF THE HUNTINGTON-ASHLAND WV/KY/OH METROPOLITAN	)	
STATISTICAL AREA (THE SUMMIT CELL FACILITY)	)	

O R D E R

On June 17, 1997, West Virginia Cellular Telephone Corporation ("West Virginia Cellular") filed an application seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to build and operate a cellular radio telecommunications facility for the Huntington - Ashland WV/KY/OH Metropolitan Statistical Area ("the Ashland MSA"). The Ashland MSA includes Greenup, Carter, and Boyd counties. West Virginia Cellular has requested authorization to construct a cell site in Boyd County. West Virginia Cellular was previously granted authority to operate a cellular radio telecommunications system in the Ashland MSA in Case No. 89-020.<sup>1</sup>

The proposed cell site consists of a 180-foot or less self-supporting antenna tower to be located off Stephens-Thompson Drive, near Meade Station in Boyd County, Kentucky

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 89-020, Application of West Virginia Cellular Telephone Corp, for Issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Domestic Public Radio Telecommunications Service to the Public in the Kentucky Portion of the Huntington-Ashland WV/KY/OH Metropolitan Statistical Area, for Approval of Financing and for Establishment of Initial Rates.

("the Summit cell site"). The coordinates for the Summit cell site are North Latitude 38° 24' 49.2" by West Longitude 82° 43' 9.8".

West Virginia Cellular has provided information regarding the structure of the tower, safety measures, and antenna design criteria for the Summit cell site. Based upon the application, the design of the tower and foundation conforms to applicable nationally recognized building standards, and the plans have been certified by a Registered Professional Engineer.

Pursuant to KRS 100.324(1), the Summit cell site's construction is exempt from local zoning ordinances; however, West Virginia Cellular notified the Boyd County Judge/Executive of the pending construction. West Virginia Cellular has filed applications with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Kentucky Airport Zoning Commission seeking approval for the construction and operation of the Summit cell site. Both agencies informed West Virginia Cellular that an application was not necessary.

West Virginia Cellular has filed notices verifying that each person who owns property or who resides within 500 feet of the Summit cell site has been notified of the pending construction. The notice solicited any comments and informed the property owners or residents of their right to intervene. In addition, notice was posted in a visible location on the proposed site for at least two weeks after West Virginia Cellular's application was filed. Intervention status was granted to Mr. and Mrs. John H. Thompson, Jr., Orville Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Okey Wiley, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Boggs, and Russell E. Smith.

On November 18, 1987, a hearing was held at the request of the parties. At the hearing, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley, who were the only intervenors in attendance, testified that they objected to the proposed construction due to its location and the future hopes of developing

the surrounding property. Several alternate sites were discussed by the parties, with West Virginia Cellular testifying that the site chosen is the optimum location for the facility and that using an alternate location would require the erection of a second tower. The Commission finds that the record does not indicate that there is a more suitable site for the facility than the one chosen.

Pursuant to KRS 278.280, the Commission is required to determine proper practices to be observed when it finds, upon complaint or on its own motion, that the facilities of any utility subject to its jurisdiction are unreasonable, unsafe, improper, or insufficient. To assist the Commission in its efforts to comply with this mandate, West Virginia Cellular should notify the Commission if it does not use this antenna tower to provide cellular radio telecommunications services in the manner set out in its application and this Order. Upon receipt of such notice, the Commission may, on its own motion, institute proceedings to consider the proper practices, including removal of the unused antenna tower, which should be observed by West Virginia Cellular.

The Commission, having considered the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that West Virginia Cellular should be granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate the Summit cell site in the Ashland MSA under its previously approved tariff.

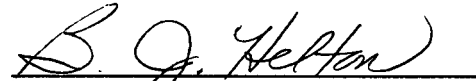
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. West Virginia Cellular is granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate the Summit cell site.


2. West Virginia Cellular shall immediately notify the Commission in writing, if, after the antenna tower is built and utility service is commenced, the tower is not used for a period of 3 months in the manner authorized by this Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 23rd day of January, 1998.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director